

# Ocaina language

**Ocaina** is an indigenous American language spoken in western South America.

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Ocaina	
<i>Xáfahxajoh'</i>	
Native to	Peru, Colombia
Native speakers	190 (1998–2000) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	<div>Bora–Huitoto <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Huitoto–Ocaina<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Ocaina</b></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	oca
Glottolog	ocai1244 <span> </span> (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/ocai1244) <sup>[2]</sup>

## Classification

Ocaina belongs to the Witotoan language family. It is its own group within the Huitoto-Ocaina sub-family.

## Geographic distribution

Ocaina is spoken by 54 people in northeastern Peru and by 12 more in the Amazonas region of Colombia. Few children speak the language.

### Dialects/Varieties

There are two dialects of Ocaina: Dukaiya and Ibo'tsa.

## Phonology

### Consonants

Ocaina consonant phonemes						
		<span><u>Bilabial</u></span>	<span><u>Alveolar</u></span>	<span><u>Postalveolar/</u></span> <span><u>Palatal</u></span>	<span><u>Velar</u></span>	<span><u>Glottal</u></span>
<span><u>Nasal</u></span>	lenis	m	n	ɲ		
	fortis	mː	nː	ɲː		
<span><u>Plosive</u></span>		p b	t r	tʃ dʃ	k ɡ	ʔ
<span><u>Affricate</u></span>			ts dz	tʃ dʒ		
<span><u>Fricative</u></span>		ɸ β	s	ʃ ʒ	x	h

### Vowels

Ocaina vowel phonemes			
	<span><u>Front</u></span>	<span><u>Central</u></span>	<span><u>Back</u></span>
<span><u>High</u></span>	i, ɪ	ɨ, ɤ	
<span><u>Low</u></span>	e	a, ǣ	o, ɔ

### Tone

Syllables in Ocaina may be marked with one of two tones: high or low.

### Syllables

Syllables in Ocaina consist of a vowel; single consonants may appear on either side of the vowel: (C)V(C).

## Writing System

Ocaina is written using a Latin alphabet. A chart of symbols with the sounds they represent is as follows:

Latin	IPA	Latin	IPA	Latin	IPA	Latin	IPA	Latin	IPA	Latin	IPA	Latin	IPA	Latin	IPA	Latin	IPA	Latin	IPA	Latin	IPA
a	/a/	b	/b/	c	/k/	ch	/tʃ/	ds	/dz/	dy	/dʒ/	e	/e/	f	/f/	g	/g/	h	/ʔ/	i	/i/
j	/h/	k	/k/	ll	/dʒ/	m	/m/	ñ	/mː/	n	/n/	ñ	/nː/	ñ	/ɲ/	ñ	/ɲː/	o	/o/	p	/p/
q	/k/	r	/r/	s	/s/	sh	/ʃ/	t	/t/	ts	/ts/	ty	/tʃ/	u	/ʊ/	v	/β/	x	/x/	y	/ɜ/

- Because the Ocaina alphabet is based on Spanish, c is used to indicate /k/ before a, o, and u, qu is used before e and i, and k is used in loan words, such as **kerosene** *kerosene*.
- Nasalization is indicated by inserting n after a vowel. Compare: **tya tyója** [tʃa tʃóha] *hang it* vs. **tya tyonjan** [tʃa tʃóhã] *clean it*.
- High tone is indicated with the acute accent: á, é, í, ó, ú.

## References

1. Ocaina (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/oca/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
  2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Ocaina" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ocai1244>). *Glottolog* 3.0. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
- Agnew, Arlene; Evelyn G. Pike (January 1957). "Phonemes of Ocaina (Huitoto)". *International Journal of American Linguistics*. **23** (1): 24–27. doi:10.1086/464385 (<https://doi.org/10.1086%2F464385>).
  - Leach, Ilo M. (2008). Mary Ruth Wise (ed.). *Vocabulario Ocaina* ([http://www.sil.org/americas/peru/html/pubs/show\\_work.asp?id=559](http://www.sil.org/americas/peru/html/pubs/show_work.asp?id=559)) (PDF). Serie Lingüística Peruana (in Spanish). **4** (2nd ed.). Yarinacocha, Peru: Instituto Lingüístico de Verano.

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